

Vol. 18 • No. 1 • Fall 2014

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

# AMMUNITION

## QUARTERLY



**ALL  
TOGETHER  
NOW**

MARINES FROM AMMUNITION COMPANY, 3D SUPPLY BATTALION, CLR-35, CONDUCTED A UNIQUE AMMUNITION OPERATION OVER A 3-DAY EVOLUTION IN THREE PHASES...

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**Supporting The Warfighter ★ A Marine Corps Tradition**

[https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/sites/pmammo/Pages/Program-Manager-Ammunition-\(PMM116\).aspx](https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/sites/pmammo/Pages/Program-Manager-Ammunition-(PMM116).aspx)



**PROGRAM MANAGER  
FOR AMMUNITION**

Mr. Scott Rideout

**SENIOR EDITOR**

Mr. David Denomy

**EDITOR**

Ms. Ann Hennigan, IMG, Inc.

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Mr. Craig Thoburn, IMG, Inc.

**AMMUNITION QUARTERLY**

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Provide ideas/articles to the Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command, 2200 Lester Street, Quantico, VA 22134 or via email to AmmoMail@usmc.mil

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MARINES SECURING AMMUNITION LOADS FOR SAFE OVERLAND TRANSPORTATION. LCPL DILLON BARHORST, LCPL WILLIAM DELGADO, PFC CANDICE WILLIAMSON, PFC DARIUS FRED AND CPL RASEY JUPIN TIGHTEN DOWN STRAPS ON ONE OF THE LOGISTICS VEHICLE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT TRUCKS.

Source photo by  
GySgt Christopher A. Garcia

Photo Illustration by Craig Thoburn

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

# AMMUNITION QUARTERLY

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*Henoko Ammunition Supply Point ammo pads staged for ammo operations. LCpl Ricardo Dominguez annotates the first inventory count for the Issues section. LCpl Zayra Ramirez annotates the second inventory count.*

*Source photo by GySgt Christopher A. Garcia*



**MARINE CORPS**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION**

# A Note From the PM

*By Scott Rideout,  
Program Manager for Ammunition,  
Marine Corps Systems Command*



Official Photo

**W**elcome to the Fall 2014 issue of the Ammunition Quarterly. I would like to take this time to introduce myself. I assumed the Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo) responsibilities on August 18, 2014. I have over 25 years of civilian service in the Department of the Navy in the acquisition and explosives fields. My most recent 7 years were spent as the Chief Engineer and then the Deputy PM for the U.S. Marine Corps Joint Light Tactical Vehicle program within the Program Executive Office, Land Systems. During my 4 years at the Naval Ordnance Center, where I managed facilities and ran the Naval Explosives Safety Afloat program, I learned about PM Ammo and the exceptional job they do to ensure the best ammunition possible is available to Marines so that they will have confidence in executing their mission. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead such a renowned and respected community and hope to continue on the path of continuous improvement.

My focus for this organization is first to understand the enterprise, and then to drive incremental im-

provements across all three of our mission areas—Acquisition, Total Life Cycle Management and Explosives Safety. In acquisition, we are challenged with greatly reduced budgets compared to the recent heyday of \$1B+ annual authority. In this environment, we must ensure that we are good stewards of the taxpayer's money, take steps to ensure the viability of our industry partners so they will be ready when the next crisis calls Marines to duty and continue to modernize and improve our ammunition. For Total Life Cycle Management, we will continue to upgrade and improve our enterprise business practices, policies and information systems to make sure ammunition and explosives are where we need them, when we need them, at the lowest cost. To ensure continuous improvement in this area, we will develop a new set of metrics that directly measure our performance and hold people accountable for showing positive trends.

The real excitement is in explosives safety. Starting Oct 1, 2014, PM Ammo has assumed responsibility to conduct explosives safety inspec-


tions onboard U.S. Marine Corps installations from the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity. This new responsibility will both require and enable improved professionalism throughout our community, and it will require all of your help to demonstrate that the U.S. Marine Corps is capable of successfully executing explosives safety management programs and verifying their effectiveness. We will also develop new metrics for both internal PM Ammo execution of explosives safety inspections and enterprise explosives safety management.

As we move toward these objectives, I welcome your ideas and feedback. Please use the instructions in the back of the magazine to send me your ideas for future articles, areas where we can improve, or anything we should measure to obtain a better picture of the health of our enterprise.

**Semper Fi,**

Program Manager,  
Ammunition





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## MALFUNCTION AND DEFECT REPORTING—WHY IT MATTERS



*Above: Weapon/ammo malfunction: Cause unknown. USMC Courtesy Images*

*By Kelly Fronczek; Senior Systems Analyst,  
Engineering/Documentation Systems, Inc., Expeditionary Systems Evaluation Division*

**H**ave you, as a supporting Unit Ammo Tech, been out on a range and had those who were training bring back ammunition, stating that some or all of the ammo did not fire or function the way it was supposed to? Have you been issuing out ammo or had ammo brought back to you on a range that was dented, leaking orange powder or otherwise defective? Have you wondered what to do with the ammunition assets in these scenarios?

How about as a supporting Ammo Tech? Have you been in the process of completing a receipt (turn-in) and the supported unit technician tells you how some of the ammunition being turned in didn't function correctly (there were duds, they were rusted/dented, etc.), and wondered what the correct procedures were to handle these types of situations?

The correct answer to each one of these scenarios is to have the supported unit technician complete a Malfunction or Defect Report as required per Marine Corps Order (MCO) 8025.1E.

First, let's review the definitions of a malfunction and a defect. Per MCO 8025.1E, a **MALFUNCTION** occurs when an ammunition item fails to function in accordance with the design, intent and expected performance when fired, launched or otherwise employed as specified. Malfunctions include the abnormal or premature functioning of an item as a result of normal handling, maintenance, storage, transportation or tactical employment.

A **DEFECT** is an imperfection that may prevent an item from functioning as intended or result in a malfunction. Defects include, but are not limited

to, cracked cartridge case, loose primer, missing safety pin, deteriorated or leaking propellant bags or containers, presence of excessive rust/corrosion, and obvious external damage, etc.

### **Responsibilities of the Supported Unit**

When a supported unit experiences an ammo malfunction/defect, the following information needs to be provided, at a minimum:

- Identification of the unit, with a Point of Contact (POC) with first-hand knowledge of the incident
- Complete identification of ammunition, Department of Defense Identification Code, National Stock Number, Ammunition Lot Number (ALN) and Serial Number, as well as the quantity of how many rounds were fired and how many rounds failed

- Identification/description of weapon(s), including condition before and after the incident, settings, rate-of-fire, target, etc.
- Description of incident, including if there were any injuries, fatalities or damage
- Local (prevailing) conditions, date and time of incident, weather, terrain, etc.
- Ammo storage conditions prior to firing
- Whether the ALN was locally suspended as a result of the incident (by the Range Safety Officer or Ammunition Supply Point) and any other pertinent information

Additional reporting requirements can be found in MCO 8025.1E.

If any remaining rounds from the ALN that failed to function as intended, or any residue from the failed rounds (misfires, cartridge cases, fragments, etc.) are deemed safe for transport by Explosive Ordnance Disposal, the supported unit is to return them to the supporting activity and notify the activity of the malfunction/defect. Damaged weapons will be returned to the unit armory with notification that a malfunction occurred, and the weapon is to remain “as is” until further notice.

All required information is gathered, rewritten up and submitted in a Naval Message and released via Automated Message Handling System. The message is routed to MARCORSYSCOM, PM Ammo and Marine Corps Programs Division (MCPD) Fallbrook, at a minimum, and additional addresses are listed in MCO 8025.1E.

In the event of a critical incident with serious injuries, fatalities or damage, PM Ammo will be notified immediately by phone and with a follow-up Naval Message report. The firing position is to be

cordoned off, taken out of operation and protected/maintained until investigators arrive.

For more detailed information on supported unit responsibilities regarding malfunction/defect reporting, refer to MCO 8025.1E.



*G881 Frag Grenades. DEFECT: User tapes spoons to grenade body to prevent inadvertent extraction of the pull rings causing the grenade to function. This systemic action led to the new “confidence clip,” which physically retains the pull-pull ring in place until it is rotated out of the clip and extracted/pulled from the grenade housing. Photo by Mr. Mike James*

### Responsibilities of the Supporting Unit

The supporting activity will determine whether to locally suspend the ALN involved, based on the severity of the incident. If suspended, the supporting activity is to notify (via telephone, email, etc.) PM Ammo of their action(s), including the on-hand balance of the ALN involved.

If the supported activity returns remaining rounds/residue, the supporting activity will tag, segregate and store the turned-in items “pending investigation” until receipt of a notice to release or dispose of the ammunition from PM Ammo.

### Why it Matters

One might think that one leaking B519 round or one dented A576 round is no big deal; or a couple of M766s that don’t work as well as MN08s aren’t that big of a deal—just tell the supporting activity techs and it’ll get taken care of. However, these

seemingly “small” instances can actually make a big difference when proper procedures are followed.

Malfunction Reports are assessed/reviewed to determine if the ALN involved was at fault: if there was any possibility that the ammunition was defective and if the defect resulted in the malfunction. If the ammunition is found to be at fault/defective, a secondary assessment is conducted to see if there is a cost-effective fix for the defect. This assessment is exclusively driven by the safety and reliability of the ammunition. MCPD Fallbrook provides PM Ammo with technical assessments of each reported malfunction. Assessments are based on information provided in Malfunction Reports, additional information obtained from POCs, witnesses and a review of additional elements, such as:

- ALN production data (specifications, waivers, deviations, Lot Acceptance Test data, etc.)
- ALN and common component history (previous malfunctions, Notice of Ammunition Reclassifications [NARs], Ammunition Information Notices [AINs], investigations, inspections, etc.) including the history of “sister” ALNs and history data compiled by other services.

Without Malfunction and Defect Reports, ammunition cannot properly be reclassified. NARs/AINs are generated in part from supported activities’ submission of Malfunction/Defect Reports. So, next time you see that leaking B519 round or rusted ammo, or someone complains of ammo not firing like it’s supposed to, refer to MCO 8025.1E and make sure the Malfunction/Defect Report is submitted to ensure the ammo is properly reclassified and a malfunction is prevented!

# COLLABORATIVE AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT ONLINE

Migrating to the 21st Century

*By David Denomy; Plans, Operations, and Safety Division;  
Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command*

Collaborative Ammunition Management Online (CAMO) is a web-based decision-making tool that enables Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo) staff to evaluate requests for

7 years ago and is showing its age. Its capabilities are rudimentary. The ability to extrapolate data requires multiple user steps and there is no automation whatsoever. Additionally, the system will be unusable when all of programs migrate to Marine Corps Enterprise Information Technology Services (MCEITS).

The plan for updating the system has been in the works since 2007. While it has had some progress, it fell off the radar until 2013. PM Ammo directed Access Systems, Inc. (ACCESS) to perform perfective maintenance on the CAMO 3.0 system under the Ammunition Automated Information Systems maintenance contract. ACCESS conducted a project kick-off meeting on Nov. 8, 2013, in anticipation of starting the CAMO project. PM Ammo then conducted a kick-off brief on Nov. 19, 2013, in which the high-level requirements, capabilities, functionality and expectations for CAMO 3.0 were presented to ACCESS.

## Scope

The scope of the CAMO 3.0 effort by ACCESS encompasses the perfective

ammunition. It allows the PM Ammo Plans, Operations, and Safety Division to enter requests, which CAMO stores in an online database where PM Ammo decision-makers can access them and provide a response to the requests in a timely fashion.

Currently, CAMO is running on Version 1.0, which was created over



maintenance of CAMO 3.0. In addition to providing support for native CAMO functionality, CAMO 3.0 will provide the following capabilities:

- A content management system
- A workflow management system
- An ammo request lifecycle dashboard feature displaying open/closed requests, canceled requests, approvals and reimbursements
- An enhanced reporting ability
- An enhanced searching ability
- An intuitive user interface, to include metrics
- A broader administrative support system
- A data migration event from CAMO 1.0 to CAMO 3.0
- A multi-role support system
- A broader database querying system
- An increase in online help visibility

Enhanced functionality also will include automatic email alerts to CAMO personnel to notify them that action is needed, the ability to publish PM Ammo recommendations in CAMO and retain them for historical purposes, and the capability to customize automatic email alerts.

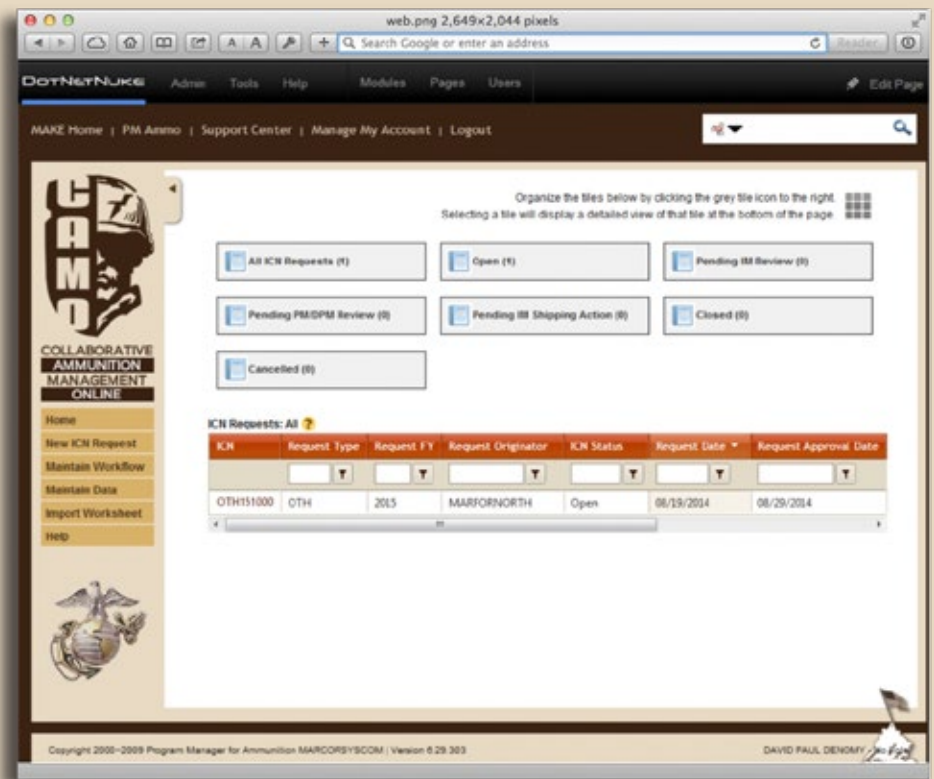
## Project Goals

The high-level goals for the CAMO 3.0 perfective maintenance effort are to:

- Allow CAMO 3.0 users to assume multiple security roles
- Ensure that CAMO 3.0 fully supports the ammo request lifecycle process to be identified through analysis of the current business processes
- Migrate existing CAMO 1.0 base functionality to the DotNetNuke 5.2.2 web application framework

using ASP.NET on version 3.5 of the .NET software framework

lated to the Inventory Control Number process



*CAMO 3.0 is scheduled to debut in October of 2014 and be part of the MCEITS migration.*

- Migrate existing CAMO 1.0 users and data to the CAMO 3.0 system
- Provide a flexible framework aimed at supporting business processes
- Provide a printable online help capability to allow reduced end-user support
- Provide administrators broader capabilities that enable them to fully support the CAMO user community
- Provide an efficient and easy-to-learn user interface in a style consistent with that of the Marine Ammunition Knowledge Enterprise – Re-design website
- Provide meaningful reports re-

## Verification and Validation

In June of 2014, ACCESS presented CAMO 3.0, Release 1 for User Acceptance Testing (UAT). The purpose of the verification portion of the plan was to ensure the product is being built according to its requirements, specifications and standards, and that it is built correctly. Verification is an incremental quality control process that occurs throughout software improvement beginning with requirements, progressing through evolving work products and culminating in deployment.

The validation portion of the plan is to demonstrate that operational re-



or defects, which is impressive to say the least. However, as with any testing of a new system, numerous enhancements were identified to make the system even better. These items will have to be evaluated and

The new CAMO 3.0 Ammunition Cost and Availability Worksheet allows for importation of data directly into the system, which means no more hand jamming or cutting and pasting. This upgrade will save time and streamline the requests process. The

LEFT: CAMO 1.0 – Ammunition Cost and Availability Worksheet  
RIGHT: New CAMO 3.0 Ammunition Cost and Availability Worksheet

[illegible]



**R**ecently, Marines from Ammunition Company, 3d Supply Battalion, CLR-35, conducted a unique ammunition operation over a 3-day evolution in three phases. Under guidance from MSgt Jason Stravers, more than 255 pallets of propellant munitions were relocated from the Henoko ASP with a final destination of Sasebo, Japan via Opportune Lift.

During Phase I of the operation, the Records section Marines prepared the storage work orders that would consolidate three Department of Defense Identification Codes located throughout 375 square acres of the ASP. The Physical Inventory Control Program (PICP) section then verified location and counts, which in turn allowed the Storage section, aided by the forklift team of Cpl Rasey Jupin, Cpl Daniel Vargas, Cpl Curtis Brown and LCpl Adrian Gomez, to begin the large-scale movement of 256 pallets of ammunition—valued at over \$4 Million—to the staging area. Cpl Brown stated, “After the many hours and repetitiveness of moving ammo from one place to another, up the same road, day in and day out, you feel relieved and feel a sense of accomplishment after you see the final results, knowing that would not happen without you.”

Phase II began early on a Saturday morning that found the Ammunition Technicians battling the elements of high winds and the heat of Okinawa. After receiving the safety brief from area supervisor GySgt Christopher Garcia, teams of Marines began the tasks of inventory, pallet consolidation and load out. With safety as a chief concern, it was critical to ensure that all 26 trucks (21 Logistics Vehicle System Replacements [LVSRs], 3 long-bed Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacements [MTVRs] and 2 standard-bed MTVRs) were properly loaded, strapped and inspected during this portion of

# ALL TOGETHER NOW

*By GySgt Christopher A. Garcia,  
Henoko Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) Storage Chief,  
CLR-35 Sup Bn Ammo Co  
Photos by GySgt Christopher A. Garcia*

*Artillery charges  
staged for loading at  
Henoko ASP; stacks of  
propellant are lined up  
on the pads.*



the operation. Ground guides oversaw the forklift team load trucks, while a team of Marines simultaneously worked on affixing the 104 Kanji placards (a requirement unique to Okinawa, Japan) created by SSgt Scott Tabor and his issues crew. Team leaders supervised their separate teams on the ground, along with the teams on the trucks, while securing the loads with multiple straps and making sure tarps were utilized.

It is during these types of ammunition movements that recent graduates from Fort Lee, Virginia get to apply newly acquired technical skills and finally see how the ammo puzzle all comes together. LCpl Darius Fred, a graduate from Class 011-14, said, "I am glad I got to be part of this. This is a great experience and helps me develop into a better rounded Ammo Tech."

The combination of hard work and tireless effort from all ensured that the task was completed ahead of the expected timeline. To complete this phase, PICP conducted one final count of pallets by lot number and truck load. Before moving onto the next phase, MSgt Stravers briefed the ASP Officer in Charge, CWO3 John Williams, and the Commanding Officer for Ammunition Company, Capt Michael Smith, with the completion of Phase I/II and the scheme of maneuver for Phase III. MSgt Stravers complimented the vigorous effort with this statement, "The young warriors of Ammo Company have made it easy to be Storage Chief with their hard work and continued dedication."

On Sunday, the Platoon Sergeant, Sgt Andrew Ramirez, had the armed guards receive their weapons and security ammo from the armory. Marines then moved to the ASP, where SSgt Octaya Jones had control of the departing truck in sticks of five at 15-minute intervals, once given the



Marines strap down artillery charges for transportation. PFC Khalif Smith, Cpl Michael Bajor, LCpl Sergio Medinacancel, LCpl Dillon Barhorst, LCpl Oscar Carranza, LCpl Richardson Clervil and PFC Candice Williamson strap down the ammunition so it is secure during the movement.



Henoko ASP Marines loading trucks on the pad. LCpl Adrian Gomez and LCpl William Delgado move pallets of propellant to the next truck.



Henoko ASP Marines loading trucks on the pad. Cpl Rasey Jupin and Cpl Curtis Brown load a truck so the strap team can secure the load.





*Cpl Curtis Brown operates the forklift to load the first two pallets of propellant on the trucks at the Henoko ASP.*



green light via radio from MSgt Stravers, who was on site at Tengan Pier to supervise the ship load out. A trained fire crew of Ammunition Technicians was also on site during this phase of the operation. At approximately 0800, the start of the moving phase began. Five trucks departed the ASP, arrived and staged on Tengan Pier, while the other trucks were systematically released from the ASP en route to the pier. Once the first five trucks were cleared and the fire crew removed the placards from the trucks, MSgt Stravers relayed to SSgt Jones to launch the next wave of trucks. They repeated this procedure until the operation was completed at 1630 hrs. The Marines who took part in this phase had a few hours to rest before Monday rolled around and they were back at it again.

This is just one example of the teamwork that goes on in the Pacific Command Region amongst the Ammunition Technician community. In the past few months, the Henoko ASP has stood an Explosive Safety Self Assessment and passed the Explosives Safety Inspection with zero findings—all while never ceasing to support the Marine Expeditionary Force's mission by preparing ammunition shipments for Operation Cobra Gold in Thailand, Marine Rotational Forces Darwin in Australia, Balikatan in the Philippines and deployed Marines in support of Operation Freedom Banner in Korea. The Ammunition Technicians here are a tight-knit family who, through their shared experiences, have gained a greater appreciation for serving aboard Camp Schwab's Henoko ASP. It is only through the combined efforts of all sections of the ASP that the consistent, uninterrupted support goes on. The "All Together Now" mantra is alive and well in the Henoko ASP.

Semper Fi and Carry On!



*LtCol Rob Emminger, Deputy Program Manager of PM Ammo, explains the characteristics and capabilities of the different 60mm mortar rounds in the inventory.*





# MARINE WEEK 2014, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

## MARINES AND CIVILIANS STAND TOGETHER TO REPRESENT PM AMMO

*By MGySgt Larry R. Freetage, PM Ammo Operations Chief/2311 OccField Sponsor,  
Marine Corps System Command  
Photos by Tom Frush*

**F**rom July 30, 2014 – Aug. 2, 2014, Marines and civilians from PM Ammo participated in the annual event known as “Marine Week.” PM Ammo’s participants for the event this year were LtCol Rob Emminger, Maj Steve DeVost, Capt Jake Lewis, CWO3 (now Capt) Ezra Bardo, MGySgt Larry Freetage, GySgt David Mercado, Mr. John Taraschke and Mr. Tom Frush. This year’s event was held in the Boeing Museum of Flight near Seattle, Washington—the fifth major city selected for the Marines to show what they are made of. Previous cities selected for this event were Boston, Chicago, St. Louis and Cleveland. To put it into perspective, Marine Week is not just a bunch of Marines putting on a dog-and-pony show, it is a real opportunity for the general public to interact with the Marines and see the equipment used in the accomplishment of our missions. Marine Week is a hands-on approach to show “average citizens” all the work behind the scenes, and training prior to deployments, that our Marines and civilians must accomplish before the first set of boots hitting the ground on foreign soil. The general public can feel the weight of our gear, touch the weapon systems we use and see the ammunition up close and personal when they come to these events.

Unless people have a background in the ammunition community, they likely have no idea how all the ammunition items get where they need to be, on time for the warfighter to engage the enemy. Marine Week



*Mr. Tom Frush, Maj Steve DeVost, CWO3 (now Capt) Ezra Bardo and GySgt David Mercado of MARCORSYSCOM, PM Ammo.*



*Maj Steve DeVost and CWO3 (now Capt) Ezra Bardo discuss the ammunition items in the Marine Corps inventory with BGen Vincent A. Coglianese.*





*Mr. John Taraschke, LtCol Rob Emminger, Capt Jake Lewis and MGySgt Larry Freetage of MARCORSYS COM, PM Ammo.*

gives PM Ammo a platform to explain this operation to the public. The event allows us to put our ammunition items on display for everyone to see. Then, we sit back and wait for the curious citizens to come rolling in with the questions. If they don't ask, we engage them. It is the ideal atmosphere to explain to them, while they are holding the items in their hands, the process involved with how that round gets to where it needs to be, details about the round and the cost incurred with purchasing that round. This information may shed just a little light on where some of their hard-earned tax dollars are

being spent, and maybe it will make them feel a little better about why we all pay taxes.

This year's Marine Week was, just like ones in the past, nothing short of a true success—which is to be expected because any time the Marines are involved, failure is not an option. Over the course of 5 short days, thousands of people came to see what the Marine Corps is all about. Most, if not all, left with a better understanding of what we do for our nation on a daily basis. All were grateful and thanked us for our service and sacrifices we have given.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



# PM AMMO BIDS “FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS” TO ONE OF OUR OWN

*By David Denomy, Editor, Ammunition Quarterly;  
Plans, Operations, and Safety Division;  
Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command  
Photos by Monique Randolph*

Sgt Christopher Goepper, the Plans Chief, Plans and Execution Team, Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo), Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM), retired from the Marine Corps on September 18, 2014.

The ceremony was conducted at the Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico Virginia.

LtCol Rob Emminger, Assistant PM Ammo, MARCORSYSCOM, conducted the retirement ceremony.

## SSgt Christopher Goepper's Bio

SSgt Goepper joined the Marine Corps Reserves in September 1992, went to Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island in July, 1993, and graduated in October of the same year. After completing Marine Combat Training, SSgt Goepper reported to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama for training as an Ammunition Technician and graduated in December 1993.

*LtCol Rob Emminger and SSgt Goepper stand at attention during the parading of the colors at the Museum of the Marine Corps.*





*SSgt Goepper is presented his shadow box by LtCol Rob Emminger, MGySgt Larry Freetage and GySgt David Mercado.*





After completing Military Occupational Specialty training, SSgt Goepper received orders to the Ammunition Company, Greenville, South Carolina, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, where he participated in three Combined Arms Exercises, Operation Urban Warrior and active duty special work.

In April of 2000, SSgt Goepper augmented into Active Duty and received orders to Ammunition Company, 2d Supply Bn, 2d Force Service Support Group, where he served as Section Head and Bachelor Enlisted Quarters Manager. In June of 2001, he received orders to Combat Engineer Battalion, Marine Corps Engineer School, where he served as the Ammunition Chief and as an Assistant Demo Instructor for over 180 demolition ranges.

In August of 2004, SSgt Goepper received orders to Combat Assault Battalion, 3d Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan. He served as both the Ammunition Chief and the Logistics Chief, and deployed in the following operations: Iron Fist, Cobra Gold, Taliban Saber, Korea Incremental Training Program and Forest Light.

In March of 2008, SSgt Goepper was ordered to Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, as the 7th Marine Regimental Ammunition Chief. SSgt Goepper then was reassigned to 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and deployed to Sahl Sinjar, Iraq and Combat Outpost Payne, Afghanistan. Upon returning from Afghanistan, SSgt Goepper received orders to PM Ammo, MARCORSYSCOM, Quantico, Virginia, and served as the Plans Chief on the Plans and Execution Team.

SSgt Goepper's personal decorations include the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Good Conduct Medal (4th Award) and the Selective Marine Reserve Medal. He is the proud father of two girls, Emily (age 18) and Adelaide (age 3).



# Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System, DODIC MN79, Pack-Out Process Development, Review and Validation

*By Maj David B. Blann, Assistant Program Manager,  
Demo and Line Charges, Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command  
Photos by Maj David B. Blann*

*Center Magazine Area, Twentynine Palms, California and Las Pulgas Ammunition Supply Point, Camp Pendleton, California – The Demolition Kit, Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System (APOBS) (DODIC MN79)*



*Sgt Catherine Hernandez and Sgt Andres Rodriguez pack the MN79.*

consists of grenades equally spaced on a fabric-reinforced detonating cord, over-braided in a polyester support structure. It is a self-contained, one-shot expendable linear demolition charge system used by assault elements to breach lanes through encountered wire and anti-personnel mine obstacles.

For more than a decade, the APOBS has been an evolving program since its inception into the Marine Corps ammunition inventory. Since then, there have been several product improvement efforts completed in

order to field a better system, which has caused the price to increase over the years. Currently, the process to handle field-returned MN79s that have been opened, unpacked or spilled is to place in condition code “Hotel” or “Fox” and request disposition instructions for movement back to

depot or for assets to be disposed of. The new process will alleviate most, if not all, transportation cost associated with moving serviceable assets back to depot-level storage, as well as cost associated with maintenance projects for them to be repacked at the depots. This will also alleviate the replacement cost of new systems





*MGySgt Tim Babineaux applies seals to the front pack assembly after Marines successfully completed the repack of that portion of the MN79 system.*

if serviceable assets were to be disposed of on site.

Approximately 9 months ago, MSgt Luis Capistran of the Center Magazine Area (CMA) in Twentynine Palms contacted the program office concerning APOBS being improperly packaged and/or returned to the CMA after being removed from their original packaging. His questions included: What do we do with the systems if they have been unpacked or spilled in the field? What condition code should they be placed in, and what are the disposition instructions for those systems? This

provoked thought and led to additional questions for the entire Integrated Product Team for APOBS. A joint effort was initiated that included the Assistant Program Manager for APOBS and Expeditionary Systems Evaluation Division (ESED) in Fallbrook, Califor-

nia. The goal of this effort was to develop a process that could be utilized by storage activities to re-pack the systems to their original factory-packed configuration.

In response, a detailed set of packaging instructions was developed and sent out to two storage activities to assist in the review and validation of the process.

The CMA at Twentynine Palms and the Las Pulgas Ammunition Supply Point at Camp Pendleton were the two locations selected to participate in the validation effort. These two specific locations were chosen because they were the first to experience unpacked field returns



*From left to right, LCpl Clay Simpson, LCpl Jonathon Lendof and Sgt Mary Swanson begin repackaging the first row of grenades of the front pack assembly of the MN97 system.*

and because of their close proximity, which would allow for multiple points of view during process review and validation. The set of proposed packaging instructions was reviewed by each location, each location provided feedback and the instructions were updated prior to

**The development, validation and follow-on implementation of this process could potentially save the Marine Corps millions of dollars over the life span of the APOBS.**



the team traveling to the storage activities. The Assistant Program Manager and representatives from ESED



*SSgt Lori Becerra and LCpl Jonathon Lendof verify that the last row of grenades is repackaged correctly prior to moving on to the next row as a part of the quality assurance portion of the process at Camp Pendleton.*

traveled to each location during the week of April 21–25 to observe Marines repacking live systems to validate the newly developed process.

Each storage activity provided a group of Marines to execute the repack of the systems per the validated repackag-

ing instructions. Prior to execution, the team conducted an in-brief with

all of the Marines and civilians associated with the repacking operations. This included discussions of best practices and all major/critical defects associated with the system, a review of all checklists and discussion of actions required after a system was repacked. At

each location, the Marines conducted their sentencing process as if they were receiving a field return from a supported unit. Once the asset was inspected and deemed serviceable, the Marines unpacked both the front

and rear packs of the system. Utilizing placards and the set of instructions provided by the team, the assets were successfully repacked to their original factory-pack configuration, validating the process. This was imperative and provided the observation team with invaluable insight into exactly what needed to be included in the process. This practical application validated that Marines could accomplish repacking the systems on site at their respective storage activity.

### The “So What?”

Current pricing data for the MN79 is listed at approximately \$9,400.00 per unit. The development, validation and follow-on implementation of this process could potentially save the Marine Corps millions of dollars over the life span of the APOBS. The assistance of the Marines and civilians involved with this effort is greatly appreciated and will benefit our commodity for years to come. Both the Marines and the civilians provided invaluable insight on the development and validation of this process. This will facilitate the program office in providing all of the U.S. Marines’ storage activities with a step-by-step process that can easily be incorporated into local standard operating procedures for review in the near future. It has also identified required inventory management functions to be completed after systems are repackaged on site and provided ESED with essential required data to update our Field-Return Ammunition Inspection Guide.

A huge “thank you” to all involved... Semper Fidelis...

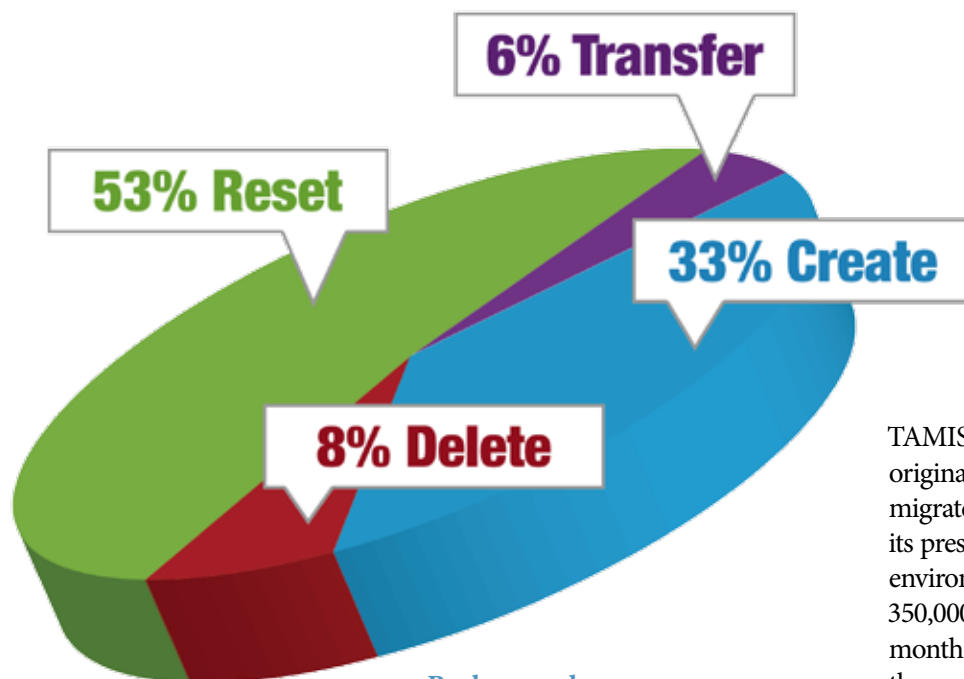


*From left to right, SSgt Lori Becerra, Cpl Michael McLaughlin, LCpl Jonathon Lendof, LCpl Clay Simpson and Sgt Mary Swanson conduct an inspection of the outer container utilizing checklists provided by the team at Camp Pendleton.*





*By Bob Ronnell, Deputy Training Ammunition Branch,  
Training and Education Command (TECOM) and GySgt Mathis, TAMIS Help Desk SNCO*



*Percentage of Helpdesk Requests  
(More than 2200)*

### Background

**T**AMIS is the U.S. Army application that manages conventional munitions for wartime, training and testing operations across the U.S. Armed Forces—the Army, Marine Corps and National Guard, as well as the Navy and Air Force when operating on Army installations. It is managed by the Department of the Army G-3/5/7, Munitions Management Division. Maintaining training superiority and achieving readiness objectives required the Army to transform its business practices and information management processes as part of the overarching “Net-Centric Data Strategy” of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).

TAMIS is not a new system. It was originally launched on a mainframe, migrated to Windows NT and then to its present, browser-driven application environment. It handles approximately 350,000 ammunition transactions per month from units located all around the world, supporting more than 7,000 authorized personnel who request, approve and manage munitions. The web-enabled system calculates combat load requirements, validates and routes electronic requests, collects expenditures and prepares forecasts. More than 50,000 munitions reports are generated each month on the nearly \$3 billion in conventional ammunition authorizations managed each year.

### Discussion

In 2003, through a joint Marine Corps Combat Development Command, TECOM and Marine Corps Systems Command (MAR-CORSYSCOM) initiative, the Ma-



rine Corps resolved a training ammunition management challenge by implementing an enterprise information system that is accredited, fully web-enabled and in use by the U.S. Army: TAMIS.

TAMIS replaced a multitude of home-grown databases. These applications were stand-alone and not Navy Marine Corps Intranet compliant. Before TAMIS, the only way for higher headquarters to get requirements, pass allowances and capture expenditures or other training ammunition information was to individually question each of their units and manually compile the information.

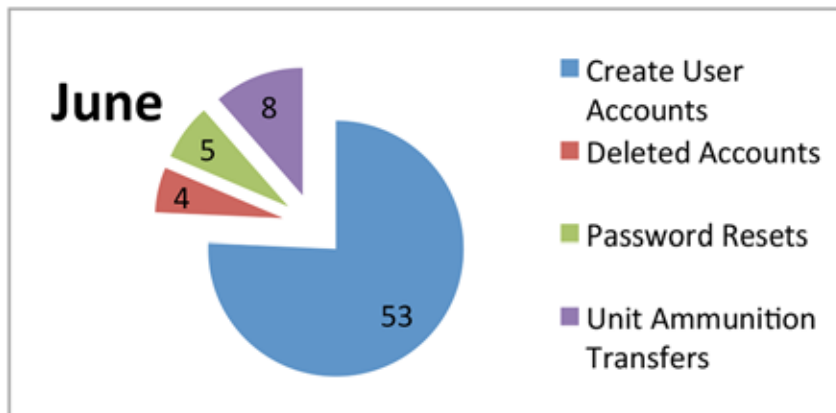
Once adopted by the Marine Corps, TAMIS was designated as the only authorized system to be used for allocating, forecasting, requisitioning, reporting expenditures, redistributing and managing training ammunition allowances. Through multiple system change requests, significant system modifications were programmed to adapt TAMIS to business rules and processes that are unique to the Marine Corps.

Through a standing Memorandum of Agreement between MARCORSYSCOM and TECOM, the sponsorship, administration and funding responsibilities shifted from PM Ammo to TECOM, since the Marine Corps uses TAMIS exclusively for training ammunition management.

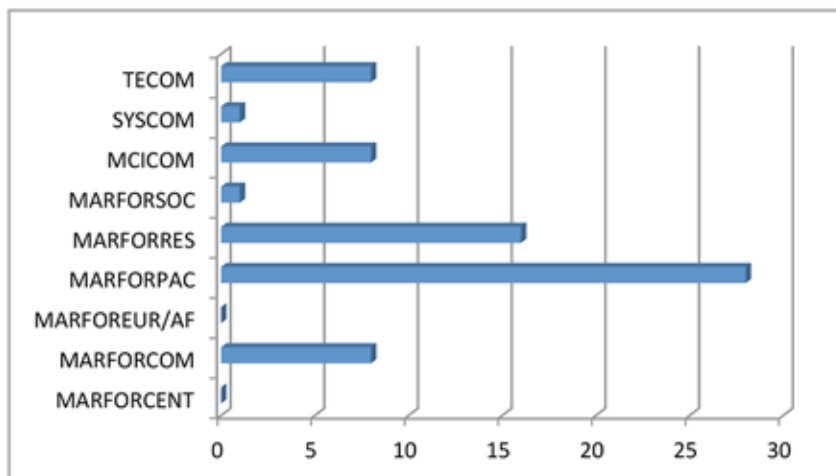
### Help Desk

The Marine Corps and the Army differ with regards to

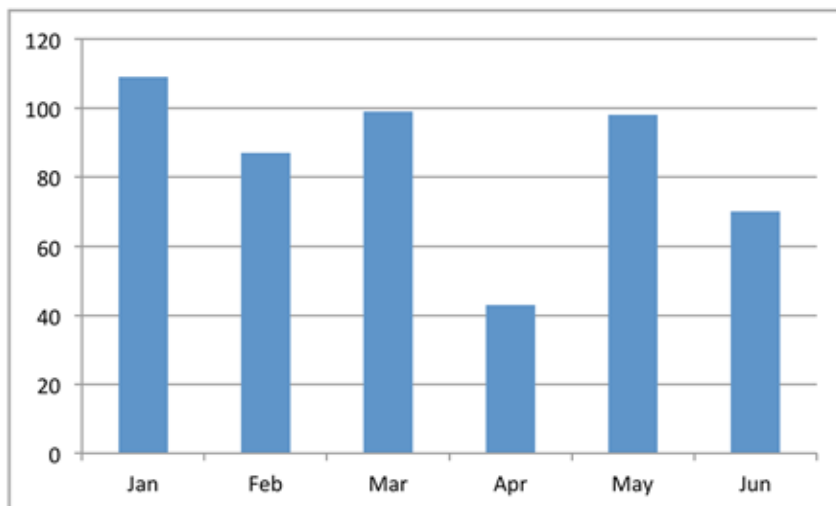
## TAMIS HELP-DESK Customer Support Report for the month of June 2014



Types and number of service requests



Monthly customer identification and number of service requests.



Accumulative service requests for calendar year 2014. Total is 506 requests.



business rules for managing training ammunition. As such, the Marine Corps has established a different training syllabus as well as a full-service help desk. The email address for the Marine Corps TAMIS help desk is TAMIS@usmc.mil.

The help desk is manned by a team of Marines and civilians. Most help desk requests are resolved within the same business day; although, depending on your geographical location, it may take until the next business day. Also, any routine request that is inadvertently sent to the Army's help desk is re-routed to the Marine Corps help desk, thereby adding to the time that the issue remains unresolved.

The Marine Corps help desk handles all routine requests for the total force, including—but not limited to—the following:

- Establishing or suspending user accounts and resetting passwords
- Establishing, moving and maintaining hierarchy
- Establishing, moving and maintaining requirements
- Establishing, modifying and maintaining authorizations
- Transferring authorization from one command to another

Since TAMIS is owned, maintained and operated by the U.S. Army, some requests sent to the help desk are above our echelon and are elevated to the Army's help desk. The decision to elevate a request will be determined by the help desk personnel.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** What is the TAMIS website address?

**Answer:** The live site is <https://tamis.army.mil> and the training site is <http://www.tamis.org>

**Question:** Where is the TAMIS help desk located?

**Answer:** The TAMIS help desk is located in Quantico, Virginia, and all requests are forwarded to the entire Ammunition Branch Staff.

**Question:** Can anyone request a TAMIS account?

**Answer:** Requests for accounts are generally routed through a unit's higher headquarters. Account requests for individuals outside the normal unit chain of command are handled on a case-by-case basis.

**Question:** What is the minimum information required to create a TAMIS account?

**Answer:** The minimum requirements are as follows: rank, first name, last name, Unit Identification Code, commercial phone number, valid .mil email address, country and state.

**Question:** Who can reset a TAMIS account password?

**Answer:** All password resets are accomplished by the TAMIS help desk.

**Question:** Which Common Access Card (CAC) certificate do I need to get into TAMIS?

**Answer:** The proper CAC certificate is the DOD CA certificate.

**Question:** I use Internet Explorer (IE) as my browser. Do I need to do anything special to access TAMIS?

**Answer:** Depending on the version you are using (IE8, IE9, etc.), you may need to set your browser to "Compatibility View" (accessible from the drop-down menu of the "Tools" tab).

**Question:** When I run into TAMIS issues, should I immediately contact the TAMIS help desk?

**Answer:** Generally, the answer can be answered by your immediate higher headquarters. It is preferred that Marines resolve all issues at the lowest level possible. As always, if you cannot resolve the issue in a timely manner, send an email to the help desk.

**Question:** Who assigns rights in TAMIS?

**Answer:** All user rights will be assigned by your higher headquarters, with the exception of the Ammunition Supply Point—the help desk will assign those rights.

**Question:** How can I use the TAMIS training site?

**Answer:** In your Internet browser, go to <http://www.tamis.org>. The site looks and functions just like the live site. You will need your login name and password, since your CAC will not work. You may need to request that your training site password be reset. Keep in mind that anything you do on the training site will not transfer to the live site.



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YOUR  
COLORS**



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LOGO  
HERE**



# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

*By David Denomy, Editor, Ammunition Quarterly;  
Plans, Operations, and Safety Division;  
Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command*

**A**mmo Warriors, welcome to the Fall 2014 issue of Ammunition Quarterly (AQ). This is the magazine's fifth edition with the enhanced graphics and dynamic editorial analysis process. If there is something that you would like to see, or if you have ideas on how to make the content and illustrations more exciting, please pass it on and we will evaluate your recommendations for inclusion in the next and future editions. To keep the magazine fresh and exciting, and to remain pertinent, we need your input. If you have an idea or a major accomplishment that you or your unit has done, please send it in. Pictures are always welcome with write-ups of the event—all we ask is no Classified Information or anything that can be viewed as Operational Security information. In the past few months, there have been a lot of events that have affected the ammunition community.

In the Spring of 2014, we bid farewell to Mr. Steve Costa, who had the helm as the Program Manager here at PM Ammo. We all wish him "fair winds and following seas" on his new endeavors. We welcomed in Mr. Scott D. Rideout as the new Program Manager for PM Ammo since the last edition. We look forward to his tenure and wish him a hearty, "Welcome Aboard."

PM Ammo supported Marine Week at the end of July in Seattle, where we were able to interface with the folks out in the Greater Pacific Northwest, showing off some of the items in the inventory and promoting the Marine Corps' mission to the public.

The "show your colors" tee shirt design competition has not received any inputs in a while. I know that there are some artists out there who would like to have the opportunity for their unit to be showcased in AQ magazine. As always, the artwork has to be in good taste and not derogatory or offensive in nature.

It is time to start thinking about the Marine Corps Ammunition Awards for calendar year 2014. The Marine Administrative Message (MARADMIN) to announce the competition will be on the street sometime late December. Competition will be strong. Do not wait until you see the MARADMIN announcement to build your package. The Achilles heel is normally the routing of endorsements through the chain of command. The winners will be announced in April, and they will be recognized at an awards presentation at the Marine Corps Museum.

In closing, I am plugging for articles from the fleet. Whether you are a PFC or LtCol, your opinions, ideas and experiences are going to be beneficial to the readers of this magazine. What's more, vital and pertinent information to your MOS will languish without your support. You do not have to be an English major or combat correspondent to supply valuable articles and pictures. We promise not to completely rewrite your article or judge you on your choice of grammar. All we ask is that you use your own words (or put in quotation marks any words that aren't your own and tell us who said/wrote it first!). Pictures can tell a thousand words, so the more the better. Remember, you get an official "I was published in Ammo Quarterly" coffee mug for any article that makes it to the magazine. Send articles to:

AmmoMail@usmc.mil

Thanks for your readership, and  
keep those articles coming!



# MISSION

**In support of the National Strategic Plan and Defense Planning Goals, PM Ammo will conduct/leverage research, development and acquisition activities and execute post-production total life cycle management support for all conventional ground ammunition required by Marine forces to train for and successfully conduct Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare.**

**Our mission is clear—to introduce military munitions into the Marine Corps stockpile and manage all facets thereafter. From formulating budgets and developing acquisition strategies to procuring and disposing of munitions, PM Ammo supports the complete or total life cycle of ground conventional ammunition and explosives for our Corps.**



MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

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